

Application No. 09/467,851
Amendment "B" dated October 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed July 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4-23, wherein disconnected content is content that does not require a bi-directional connection to a remote information store.

3. (Currently Amended) The method in claim 4-23, wherein executing a connected-content trigger comprises at least one of establishing and maintaining a bi-directional connection to a remote information store.

4-22. (Canceled).

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23. (New) In an interactive television system that includes a receiver having customizable configuration information specifying whether the receiver is connected or disconnected, wherein the receiver can receive both connected content that can be accessed when the receiver is connected and disconnected content that can be accessed when the receiver is disconnected, a method for preventing a viewer from being interrupted by links to inaccessible connected content when the receiver is disconnected, the method comprising:

storing configuration information that can be customized to control when the receiver will filter out or execute a connected-content trigger that links to connected content, wherein the receiver will only execute a connected-content trigger and thereby access the connected content when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected;

receiving a connected-content trigger linking to connected content, the trigger including a connectivity value distinguishing the trigger as a connected-content trigger and specifying that the trigger should not be ignored when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is disconnected; and

executing the connected-content trigger only when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected, wherein the configuration information can be modified to selectively control times in which the receiver is connected and times in which the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the connected- content trigger can be received while the receiver is connected or disconnected.

24. (New) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein executing a connected-content trigger comprises displaying information associated with the connected-content trigger.

25. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein executing a connected-content trigger comprises distinguishing the content trigger as a connected-content trigger based on the connectivity value.

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26. (New) A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising:
modifying the configuration information from specifying that the receiver is disconnected to specifying that the receiver is connected.
27. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the configuration information is remotely modified by a third party.
28. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the configuration information is modified by a user of the receiver.
29. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the receiver receives and executes a connected-content trigger after the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected.
30. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the connected-content trigger is received by the receiver when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the receiver stores the connected-content trigger at least until the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected.
31. (New) A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the receiver executes the connected-content trigger at a later time when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected.
32. (New) A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising:
modifying the configuration information to change the receiver from being connected to disconnected.
33. (New) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the configuration information is remotely modified by a third party.

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34. (New) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the configuration information is modified by a user of the receiver.

35. (New) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the configuration information is stored in a local memory of the receiver.

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36. (New) A receiver having customizable configuration information specifying whether the receiver is connected or disconnected, wherein the receiver can receive both connected content that can be accessed when the receiver is connected and disconnected content that can be accessed when the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the receiver prevents a viewer from being interrupted by links to inaccessible connected content when the receiver is disconnected, the receiver comprising:

means for storing configuration information that can be customized to control when the receiver will filter out or execute a connected-content trigger that links to connected content, wherein the receiver will only execute a connected-content trigger and thereby access the connected content when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected;

means for receiving a connected-content trigger linking to connected content, the trigger including a connectivity value distinguishing the trigger as a connected-content trigger and specifying that the trigger should not be ignored when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is disconnected; and

means for executing the connected-content trigger only when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected, wherein the configuration information can be modified to selectively control times in which the receiver is connected and times in which the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the connected-content trigger can be received while the receiver is connected or disconnected.

37. (New) A receiver as recited in claim 36, further comprising means for modifying the configuration information.

38. (New) A receiver as recited in claim 36, further comprising means for distinguishing connected-content triggers from disconnected content triggers.

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39. (New) A system comprising:

A receiver having customizable configuration information specifying whether the receiver is connected or disconnected, wherein the receiver can receive both connected content that can be accessed when the receiver is connected and disconnected content that can be accessed when the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the receiver prevents a viewer from being interrupted by links to inaccessible connected content when the receiver is disconnected, the receiver comprising:

means for storing configuration information that can be customized to control when the receiver will filter out or execute a connected-content trigger that links to connected content, wherein the receiver will only execute a connected-content trigger and thereby access the connected content when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected;

means for receiving a connected-content trigger linking to connected content, the trigger including a connectivity value distinguishing the trigger as a connected-content trigger and specifying that the trigger should not be ignored when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is disconnected; and

means for executing the connected-content trigger only when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected, wherein the configuration information can be modified to selectively control times in which the receiver is connected and times in which the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the connected-content trigger can be received while the receiver is connected or disconnected; and

a transmitter transmitting video and the trigger with the video.

40. (New) A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the connected-content trigger is received by the receiver when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the receiver stores the connected-content trigger at least until the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected.

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41. (New) A method as recited in claim 40, wherein the receiver executes the connected-content trigger at a later time when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected.

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42. (New) A computer program product for use in an interactive television system that includes a receiver having customizable configuration information specifying whether the receiver is connected or disconnected, wherein the receiver can receive both connected content that can be accessed when the receiver is connected and disconnected content that can be accessed when the receiver is disconnected, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for preventing a viewer from being interrupted by links to inaccessible connected content when the receiver is disconnected, the method comprising:

storing configuration information that can be customized to control when the receiver will filter out or execute a connected-content trigger that links to connected content, wherein the receiver will only execute a connected-content trigger and thereby access the connected content when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected;

receiving a connected-content trigger linking to connected content, the trigger including a connectivity value distinguishing the trigger as a connected-content trigger and specifying that the trigger should not be ignored when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is disconnected; and

executing the connected-content trigger only when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected, wherein the configuration information can be modified to selectively control times in which the receiver is connected and times in which the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the connected-content trigger can be received while the receiver is connected or disconnected.

43. (New) A computer-program product as recited in claim 42, further comprising modifying the configuration information.

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44. (New) A computer-program product as recited in claim 42, wherein the connected-content trigger is received by the receiver when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is disconnected, and wherein the receiver stores the connected-content trigger at least until the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected.

45. (New) A computer-program product as recited in claim 44, wherein the receiver executes the connected-content trigger at a later time when the configuration information specifies that the receiver is connected.

46. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 45, wherein the later time is an end of a delay period beginning upon receipt of the connected-content trigger.

47. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 42, the method further comprising:

receiving a disconnected-content trigger; and
distinguishing the disconnected-content trigger based on a connectivity value associated with the disconnected-content trigger.

48. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 47, the method further comprising:

executing the disconnected-content trigger.